

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1964

together with the

REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR





WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett.

Members:

Councillor Miss A.K. Gaze (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor S. Bidwell

Councillor R.V.C. Brown

Councillor Mrs. E.M. Clarke

Councillor J. Howe

Councillor Mrs. J.R. Last

Councillor W.A. Marsh

Councillor W.J. Pennell

Councillor S.J. Soar

Councillor T.R. Mott, C.C. (ex-officio)

Councillor S.E. Smith (ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. Wadhams, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. Stedman, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

G.S. Gounder (from November 1964)

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. F.A. Rowley (Secretary-Shorthand/Typist)

Mrs. B.E. Franklin (Part-time Shorthand/Typist to 11.12.64.)

Miss S.A. Scopes (Junior Clerical Assistant from 10.8.64.)

Part-time General Assistant:

A.W. Jay.



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Public Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Braintree.

November, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of  
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Witham Urban District.

As in previous years, I have to thank the Area Medical Officer for providing records of the work done at the various Essex County Council Clinics in the district.

The report starts with vital statistics, and you will note that the population has increased to 10,190 compared with 9,860 in 1963.

The Birth rate and the Death rate show no marked variation from the previous year, and correspond closely to the overall rates for England and Wales.

There were only 2 infant deaths - both from congenital abnormalities - but 9 still births was an unusually high figure.

The majority of deaths occurred under the headings of malignant tumours, 22, and diseases of the heart and blood vessels, 54.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total of 112 cases includes 71 of measles and 29 of infective hepatitis. The little epidemic of infective hepatitis started with 11 cases in December 1963 and spread over into 1964 when there were 9 cases in January and further cases up till September when the infection seems to have died out. The majority, but by no means all, of the patients were school children.

I have included a table showing the incidence of notifiable disease over the last 5 years. You will note the occurrence of dysentery and infective hepatitis during 1963 and 1964. The number of cases was small but as poor personal or poor food hygiene favours the spread of both diseases it shows the importance of maintaining high standards.



IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation and vaccination was carried out as usual at the Essex County Council Clinic and at the surgeries of the family doctors.

I make no apology for once more emphasizing the importance of having babies and young children protected against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough and tetanus by adequate immunisation or vaccination. Diphtheria and poliomyelitis may now be comparatively rare diseases in this country but they are not diseases of the past. At the time of drafting this report there are reports of cases of poliomyelitis in the north of England. It could happen in Witham. Why not use the free, safe, and effective insurance offered?

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

As usual your Chief Public Health Inspector has given a full and detailed account of this side of the work in the latter part of this report.

The essential Council services in connection with water, sewage and refuse disposal functioned satisfactorily. Although 217 new houses were completed the number of applicants for council houses went up from 176 to 183.

The great majority of new houses (169 plus 14 flats) were built by private enterprise and cater for the commuter rather than the council house applicant.

The back room boys have been getting into huddles throughout the year planning for the new Witham, and already the builders can be seen constructing service roads and laying foundations.

I trust that due thought will be given to the provision or at least to the encouragement of additional sports facilities and social clubs to cater for the increased population.

It is with pleasure that I thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support. My thanks go too to Mr. Wadhams and his staff and indeed to all officers of the Council for their willing help and co-operation.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Collingwood Road,  
Witham,  
Essex.

November, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of  
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting, in conjunction with the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of my Department's work during 1964.

There were few developments of note during the year, though mention must be made of the coming into operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963, which after long years of discussion brought a major section of the employed population within the protection of social legislation. Further legislation of public health importance also became effective in the Housing Act 1964, which provides for compulsory improvement of suitable houses and for programmed modernisation by areas, and the Protection of Eviction Act 1964, which foreshadows a proposed new Rent Act in 1965.

Housing is of course one of the principal factors governing public health, and maintenance of existing dwellings in good condition and to modern requirements cannot be fully effective until adequate stocks of dwellings are available. It is satisfactory that 217 new homes were built in Witham in 1964, though disappointing that the local authority's contribution was only 34. It will be seen from this Report that considerable housing demand still remains to be satisfied.

All Departments of the Council spent much time during the year on preparation for the proposed overspill development under agreement with the Greater London Council. The layout and design of the first estate of some 450 houses had been agreed by the end of the year, and it was expected that work on this would commence in 1965. Schemes are in preparation, and in hand, for extension of the public services of roads and sewers, water supply, sewage disposal, and public cleansing, and much thought has been given to the needs of the expanding town in the fields of education, medical and hospital services, community facilities and the like.

The routine work of the Public Health department has been maintained, fortunately with no major health hazard to face during the period. The Aberdeen typhoid outbreak carried considerable work on checking stocks of

tinned meats at local establishments, but served mainly to re-emphasise the explosive nature of infection when associated with food distribution, and the constant need for the highest standards of food hygiene.

The Witham Sewage Works, with the aid of its effluent lagoon, has been able to cope with the year's development, and must continue to operate effectively for the further period which must elapse before its needed extension can become operative.

The refuse service has again maintained its weekly collection record, which if it is kept up until mid-1965 will have been continuous for 30 years.

Both the manual staff and the office staff of my Department deserve all praise for their work and loyal support during the year, and I must thank the Clerk and other officers for the help I have continued to receive from them.

Lastly, I would thank the Council and the members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and encouragement they have accorded me.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,329
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,190
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,393
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£452,022
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,930

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	162	80	82
Illegitimate	9	3	6

Total live births - 171

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	16.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	5.3
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.08	...	...	...	...	...	18.1
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	18.4

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	9	5	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	50.0
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	16.3
Total live and still births - 180						

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Total infant deaths - 2

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	6.2
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	111.1
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)						Nil
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	50.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	20.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	108	56	52	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	10.6
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.95	...	...	...	10.1
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	...	11.3

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1964.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	-	-
4. Diphtheria ... ..	-	-
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-
8. Measles ... ..	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	2	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	7	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1	-
16. Diabetes ... ..	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	4	13
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	12	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	-	-
20. Other heart disease ... ..	4	5
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	1	2
22. Influenza ... ..	-	-
23. Pneumonia ... ..	4	1
24. Bronchitis ... ..	2	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	-	-
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	2	-
34. All other accidents ... ..	1	1
35. Suicide ... ..	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	-	-
All Causes	<u>56</u>	<u>52</u>



GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

			<u>Attendances</u>
<u>WITHAM</u> Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.			
Child Welfare	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m.	1,716
School Clinic	1st & 3rd Thursdays	9 a.m.	508
Dental	2nd 4th & 5th Thursdays and Every Friday	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	788
Speech Therapy (No Speech Therapist until 22.8.64.)	Every Friday	(By Appt.)	157
<u>SILVER END</u> Garden Village Hall.			
Child Welfare	1st Friday	2 p.m.	288
<u>RIVENHALL</u> Church Hall.			
Child Welfare	3rd Monday	2 p.m.	274

(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London W.C.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every 4th Tuesday morning.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASE	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	1	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	29	-	-
Measles	71	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	2	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Totals	112	3	-

DISEASES	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	6
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	12	29
Measles	-	141	29	156	71
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	5	14	7	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	4	4	6	4
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	3	-	1	1
Totals	37	157	48	183	112

DISEASES	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	29	9	4	4	-	3	-	3	3	3	-	-	-
Measles	71	-	-	-	2	2	-	64	-	1	-	-	2
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	112	9	6	5	4	8	2	67	3	5	1	-	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	29	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	3	5	2	1	-	1
Measles	71	-	5	7	6	9	42	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Totals

112 - 5 7 8 11 55 9 3 6 3 3 - 2



TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of the 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

Of these, 2 cases were re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Primary Courses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	155	27	182
Diphtheria and Tetanus	-	14	14
Diphtheria	-	9	9
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	1	82	83
Poliomyelitis	148	72	220
Smallpox	84	-	84
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	23	-	23
Diphtheria and Tetanus	10	96	106
Diphtheria	2	136	138
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	1	1	2
Poliomyelitis	27	198	225
Smallpox	20	-	20

HOUSING.

The increased overall rate of house building, noted in 1963, continued during 1964, though the number erected by the local authority was reduced. The total of 217 new dwellings was made up as under:-

Local Authority:	10 houses (completing the Houses for Sale estate)
	24 bungalows.
Private enterprises:	169 houses
	14 flats.

There were 99 houses under construction at December 31st, all on private enterprise estates.

The Council's own programme provides for the commencement during 1965 of a warden type flatlet hostel of 30 units, and an estate of about 70 houses and bungalows. An area has been reserved for sale as building plots, and consideration is to be given to building a further estate of houses for sale. It is also expected that during 1965 a start will be made on the first of the estates to be built by the Greater London Council for the Witham Urban District Council under the overspill agreement scheme.

The number of dwellings erected in the Urban District since 1945 is as follows:-

By Local Authority:	808 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows and 77 Houses for Sale)
By Private Enterprise:	627

The number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1964 was 183 compared with 176 at the end of 1963. The waiting lists were closed for 12 months on 1st April 1964 and a system of supplementary lists was then commenced. At the 31st December the lists were composed of the following categories:-

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ordinary list	61	17	78
Aged Persons list	51	12	63
Single persons list	7	2	9
Exchange list	2	-	2
Engaged Couples list	18	13	31



Pre-War Council Houses:

No further systematic improvement of pre-war Council houses was undertaken, all pre-1930 houses having been modernised by the end of 1963. Modernisation of a further 186 houses built between 1930 and 1939 has yet to be decided.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued and the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

(a) Clearance Orders:	Orders submitted	*1 - 5 houses
	Orders confirmed	2 - 14 houses (1 excl from Ord
	Houses vacated	4
	Houses demolished	Nil.
(b) Demolition Orders:	Orders made	Nil.
	Orders recommended	**1
	Houses vacated	2
	Houses demolished	1
(d) Voluntary Undertakings by owners:	Houses demolished	1
	Houses not reoccupied	2
(e) Rehousing by Local Authority:	Families rehoused	8

\* This Order was subsequently withdrawn by the Council when the houses concerned were acquired by agreement, for demolition.

\*\* A Closing Order was eventually made in this case.

Another Clearance Order, previously made in respect of 2 cottages, was withdrawn upon the acceptance by the Council of substantial schemes of modernisation of the properties. One of the two families was rehoused to permit the work to proceed.

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition:	occupied	13
	vacant	6
Houses subject to Demolition Orders:	vacant	1
Houses subject to Closing Orders:	occupied	1
Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders:		11
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:		4

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next five years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 54 properties have been demolished.



Housing Acts 1949-1964.

Improvement Grants.

During the year a further 25 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant received during the past 5 years are as follows:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Submitted	7	-	1	1	9
Granted	7	-	1	1	9
Refused	-	-	-	-	-
Withdrawn	-	2	-	-	-
Schemes completed	-	5	-	-	5

There were 6 schemes outstanding at the end of 1964.

Details of applications received for Standard Grants since their inception in 1959 are as follows:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Submitted	11	20	8	7	16
Granted	11	20	8	7	16
Withdrawn	1	-	-	-	2
Schemes completed	10	13	13	8	9
Outstanding at 31st December	-	7	2	1	6

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1964:-

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

(a)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	173
(b)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	17
(c)	Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	36

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

(a)	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) .....	2
(b)	Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) .....	24

Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-61:  
Public Health Acts 1936-61.

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	6
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice .....	6

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply position remains as in previous years, the Council supplementing its own Bradwell Spring source by water purchased from the South Essex Water Company, whose trunk main from Abberton skirts the urban district. The proposal for the Council to transfer its undertaking to this Company, previously referred to, is in abeyance.

The quality of both supplies is consistently satisfactory, as shown by frequent analysis. Pressure generally is adequate throughout the district. Further increasing demand and town development requirements are to be met by the provision of a new large capacity high level reservoir in the near future.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Mains Water</u>			
Chemical	10	-	10
Bacteriological	19	-	19
<u>Other Supplies</u>			
Bacteriological	32	14	46

The unsatisfactory bacteriological reports were in respect of two private supplies. The first, a shallow borehole supply used by a roadside cafe premises, deteriorated following civil engineering works in the vicinity. A chlorinating system was subsequently installed, since which time analysis results have been satisfactory. In the second case samples were taken from a well supply to ascertain its suitability for domestic purposes. In this case micro-strainers are to be installed to remove the relatively low level of contamination indicated by the reports.

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

Bradwell Springs Supply (22.9.64.)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so. It contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity. These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

Mixed Public Supply (16.12.64.)

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity. These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses."



House Connections, etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District .....	3485
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply.....	3444
Estimated population so served .....	9790
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year .....	198
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe .....	9
Estimated population so served .....	22
Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs .....	28
Estimated population so served .....	91

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3"	...	...	...	...	672 yds.
4"	...	...	...	...	297 yds.
6"	...	...	...	...	215 yds.

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements.

Total water supplied by:-

1.	Bradwell Springs:					
	(a) To Silver End (estimated)	...	...	...	...	41,692,000 gallons
	(b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated)	...	...	...	...	75,623,000 gallons
2.	South Essex Water Company	...	...	...	...	121,138,000 gallons
3.	ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell)	...	...	...	...	Nil
						<u>238,453,000 gallons</u>

Average consumption per head per day:-

Domestic demand	...	...	...	...	...	38.96 gallons
Trade demand	...	...	...	...	...	27.73 gallons
Total consumption per head per day	...	...	...	...	...	66.69 gallons

Total consumption per head per day continues to rise. Since 1946 domestic demand has risen by about 50%, whilst trade consumption per head of population has doubled.



DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 217 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1964 were as follows:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	...	...	3365
Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools, etc.	...	...	122
Houses drained to ditches	...	...	12
Houses without drainage	...	...	5
			<hr/> 3504 <hr/>

Of those properties not connected to sewer, there is gradual improvement in existing drainage arrangements brought about with grant aid or coincidental to improvement grant schemes.

Sewer Systems:

No extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year. A number of subsidiary sewer systems are being provided by estate developers to the Council's requirements, for adoption by the Council on satisfactory completion.

Except for one small section, all sewer systems gravitate to the respective sewage works. Two systems, that for Silver End and the Witham low level system, both discharge at times of heavy rainfall. A scheme for a further low level trunk sewer system for Witham is being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers to provide for town development needs. It is expected that the contract will be commenced during 1965.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned by the Council. The three Urban District sewage works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works, which originally served Rivenhall Aerodrome and latterly the camp for displaced persons, has now passed into private hands.

#### WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

The overload on this plant, which as previously reported has been growing since shortly after the completion of the plant in 1956, continues to increase, and by December the average dry weather flow amounted to some 175% of design capacity. However, the excellent performance of the effluent lagoon, particularly after its enlargement and modification in 1963, not only overcame the deficiency of the works to produce a satisfactory effluent, but enabled a consistently excellent one to be discharged throughout 1964. In view of the fact that the long discussed sewage works extensions appeared unlikely to be in operation for a further 2-3 years, it is fortunate that such a means exists to prevent what would otherwise be consistent failure by the Council to observe the standards of the River (Pollution Prevention) Authorities. It is no exaggeration to state that the town development proposals could not have proceeded without it.

Less difficulty was experienced during the year with odour problems at this sewage works, though in view of the increasing amounts of sludge to be handled and the large area occupied for its drying, the credit for this must be given to the kind of weather during spring and early summer, rather than to any specific precaution at the plant. The deodorising system was again brought into use on those occasions when smell trouble did arise.

Further progress has been made, in conjunction with the Council's Consulting Engineers, towards the works extensions scheme, and at an Enquiry held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government towards the end of the year, the Council's proposals were submitted. The scheme, to provide for the full treatment of a dry weather flow of 1,000,000 gallons per day and associated storm flows, was originally intended to be installed in two sections, the first to extend the present capacity from 250,000 g.p.d. to 600,000 g.p.d., and the second phase to complete the works to the 1.0 million gallons per day capacity. In view of the overspill development proposals however, it was already apparent at the time of the Minister's enquiry that the suggested Phase I would do little more than provide for current flows, and the proposal to the Minister was therefore amended for a single scheme to cope with the full 1.0 m.g.d. flow. It is hoped that approval by the Minister will allow the detailed



preparation of the scheme for tender and contract purposes to proceed so as to enable commencement of the work towards the end of 1965 or in early 1966. The scheme is of course linked with the new low level sewer system (the Brain Valley outfall sewer) described in the previous section of this report, and which cannot become operative until part at least of the works extension scheme has been installed.

#### SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant continues to function satisfactorily, apart from minor lapses due to the current overload, which has previously been described. During the year the Council further considered the question of either extending this plant to cope with the overload, or alternatively linking the Silver End drainage area with the Witham sewage works by a new trunk sewer, thus eliminating the need for a separate disposal plant at Silver End. Reports by the Consulting Engineers were under consideration at the end of the year. It is hoped that an early decision will be made on this matter, as residential development in the Silver End area is precluded until further disposal capacity has been provided, and it may also be difficult to meet the requirements of local industry for disposal of trade effluents.

#### RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This small plant, designed for a flow of 18,000 g.p.d. from a population of about 600, has been operating to capacity for some years. Its performance is generally satisfactory, though at certain peak periods the effectiveness of the humus tanks leaves much to be desired. Some modification may be required to offset this, but as no extensive future development is foreseen in the area served by the plant, no major alteration or extension should be necessary.

#### RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

As in 1963, this plant was in use only for a few weeks during the year, when it operated to treat the seasonal effluent from a large peavining factory in the vicinity.

#### SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Witham Sewage Works	90	8	98
Silver End Sewage Works	6	4	10
Rivenhall Sewage Works	9	3	12
	<u>105</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>120</u>

The unsatisfactory Witham reports were all in respect of effluents temporarily containing excessive algal growth or crustacea. These

characteristics, though producing bad analytical figures, are in themselves indicative of progressive purification towards river and stream desiderata. It is questionable whether the usual analytical methods and judgment should be applied to such effluents, which are regarded with equanimity by River Boards, and which differ so radically in biological character from typical humus tank discharges.

As in previous years, the unsatisfactory Silver End reports refer to a period when the plant was temporarily and adversely affected by a trade discharge. Fortunately the filters, where the effect was most marked, recovered rapidly.

### FARMLAND.

Cultivation of sewage works land was again limited to 17 acres, compared with 19 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres in 1962. The crops grown were winter wheat and barley. The resultant profit for the season was £92.9s.9d. Cultivation of the land provides a means of disposal for ever increasing quantities of sewage sludge which is not acceptable to farmers.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Crops</u>	<u>Profit</u>	<u>Loss</u>
1947-48	Wheat, potatoes	63. 7. 10.	
1948-49	Barley, potatoes	294. 1. 4.	
1949-50	Wheat	2. 19. 0.	
1950-51	Clover, Mangold, Flax	- . - . - .	58. 7.
1951-52	Flax, Wheat	128. 19. 3.	
1952-53	Wheat, Clover, Flax	335. 3. 0.	
1953-54	Wheat, Flax	212. 19. 10.	
1954-55	Wheat, Flax	229. 14. 5.	
1955-56	Wheat, Runner Beans	279. 4. 4.	
1956-57	Wheat, Runner Beans, Sugar Beet, Marrows.	- . - . - .	193. 3.
1957-58	Wheat, Runner Beans, Sugar Beet, Marrows.	104. 15. 8.	
1958-59	Wheat, Barley, Runner Beans, Broad Beans, Lucerne	67. 13. 9.	
1959-60	Wheat, Barley, Runner Beans, Wallflower, Lucerne	- . - . - .	11. -.
1960-61	Wheat, Runner Beans.	- . - . - .	45. 3.
1961-62	Wheat, Runner Beans.	6. 5. 8.	
1962-63	Wheat, Barley.	25. 12. 9.	
1963-64	Wheat, Barley.	92. 9. 9.	
		<u>£1843. 6. 7.</u>	<u>£307. 14.</u>
Net Profit		£1535. 12. 7.	
Annual net profit		£90. 6. 7.	
Annual rental prior to 1947		£33. 12. 6.	



### DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES

Close control of industrial effluents discharged to sewer, commenced in 1949, was maintained during the year. Estimation of flow rates, separation of flows and sampling of trade wastes formed the pattern of investigations preparatory to drafting of agreements under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, as extended by the Public Health Act 1961.

During the year one old established discharge, from a Maltings, ceased to operate upon the premises being demolished to allow for rebuilding on modern lines. The new Maltings, which may ultimately have an output of trade effluent amounting to 120,000 g.p.d., commenced partial operation during the year at about one-third ultimate production capacity. In this case the Company has been required to provide a large balancing tank, and to discharge the effluent to the Council's sewers during the night hours.

Other types of trade wastes being discharged to the local sewers are as follows:-

Metal Processing: various:	3 main discharges.
Dairy wastes:	2 discharges.
Poultry packing:	1 discharge.
Fruit pulping and concentrate:	1 discharge.

9 samples of trade waste were submitted for laboratory analysis for routine trade waste examination or as spot samples for special examination.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

#### Collection:

The weekly collection of refuse from all parts of the urban district was maintained during the year.

Further consideration was given to the possible adoption of the paper sack system, but no decision was made. It is hoped to try the system on one of the new estates. The preliminary layout for the first estate to be built by the Greater London Council for the Witham Council appears to indicate that the sack system would be easier and more economic to operate than the traditional method for this type of pedestrian precinct development.

## Disposal.

Controlled tipping was maintained on the Council's marshland site adjoining the sewage works and within the confluence of the Rivers Blackwater and Brain. Here some 15 acres of marshland, acquired in 1963, will meet the requirements of the district for the opening years of the town development scheme. In view of the ultimate population now being discussed, however, it is probable that the Council will have to consider the provision of either additional tipping space or an alternative method of refuse disposal within the next five years.

Levelling and covering of the refuse is effected by means of a 1 cu. yd. mechanical shovel digger, which is also used to excavate the lagoons used for reception of trade waste sludge.

## Refuse Staff:

It is a matter for special mention that over the course of years since the Witham Council first commenced refuse collection by direct labour in 1935, the weekly collection has never failed. Long before 1964, however, it had become apparent that the wages offered for this work were insufficient to attract and to keep an adequate labour force to guarantee the maintenance of this record. For this reason, in December of 1964 the Council's Public Health Committee considered a special report on the operation of a collection bonus payment system, and it is likely that such a system will be commenced during 1965.

## SALVAGE.

In the 1963 Report, remark was made of the narrowing profit margin obtainable from local authority salvage schemes, due to labour and other costs increasing more rapidly than receipts for salvage sold. The 1964 figures, given below, illustrate this. There can be no doubt, however, that the recovery of raw material on this scale is a worth while national asset, and for that reason alone deserves an adequate return for the enterprise of those authorities who still operate it. In addition, of course, salvage recovery offers a saving of tipping space and an increase in the density of tipped refuse. Figures for the financial years 1963/64 and 1964/65 are set out in the following table:-

	1963/64				1964/65			
	Weight			Value	Weight			Value
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£. s. d.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£. s. d.
Waste Paper	211	18	1	1755.14.10.	227	14	1	1914.12. 6.
Rags	6	0	1	105. 9. 8.	4	8	2½	79.15. 3.
Sacking		10	3	3.10. 4.		2	2	5. 4. 0.
Scrap Iron	10	16	2	138.15. 9.	4	1	3	21.16. 8.
Non-Ferrous Metal			3	2. 2. 6.	7	5	2	58.14. 8.
Miscellaneous			1	9. 6.				9. 6.
TOTALS	229	6	2	2006. 2. 7.	243	11	2½	2080.12. 7.

During the year 1964-65 a bonus amounting to £487.13.6d. was paid to the staff.



CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicle during the year:-

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Loads</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
Domestic emptyings (free service)	87	104	114,400
Rechargeable work	278	580	638,000
Trade Waste removal		2,105	2,315,500
	<u>365</u>	<u>2,789</u>	<u>3,067,900</u>

These figures show a decrease over 1963 of 22% for domestic work, but an increase of 13% in trade waste removal. This shows an overall increase of  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  on the demand for the vehicle.

At the beginning of the year it was becoming obvious that a second tanker vehicle would be required to cope with the ever increasing amount of work, which has more than doubled over the last three years. Authority was obtained to purchase a second vehicle, but this had not been delivered by the end of the year.

In addition to the above removal work, the tanker vehicle carries out all cleansing of district road gullies three times annually, and also performs periodic sewer flushing.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A total of 2,836 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	533
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	338
Verminous Premises: Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ice-Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Poultry Packing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sampling: Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Sewage Effluents and Trade Waste	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	324*
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Streams and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains and Sowers: Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143

In addition, a total of 413 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

\*This figure is abnormally high, due to inclusion in it of the very many visits paid to food establishments during and after the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak.



Nuisances etc. on Books, with Number of Notices Served.  
Public Health Acts only.

Number of Notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Notices complied with during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1964	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.Ps., etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective ceilings and walls.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective doors, windows and floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Inadequate means for disposal of surface water...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective yard surface	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Absence/defective conditions of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Offensive accumulations and conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive smells/noise/fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infestations: Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Vermmin and insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

During the year a total of 176 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1964 the number of outworkers on the register was 102, comprising:-

	<u>Witham U.D.C.</u>	<u>Other Local Authorities.</u>
Glove Manufacturers	15	81
Seed Merchants	6	

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	2	5	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	61	102	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers).	7	9	5	Nil
	70	116	8	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.	by Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	8	8	-	2	-

Laborious checking of complaints into noise, smell and dust alleged to come from an animal feeding stuffs factory was maintained. With the ready co-operation of the Company, conditions were considerably improved.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The lease of the Council's caravan site was renewed in 1963, the Council having decided to keep the site in operation for a further period.

The site has space for 12 trailer caravans, and in addition to the proper basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities, electricity supply is now available to each occupier. The Council is to consider its ultimate replacement by a larger modern site at a later date.

At December 1964 site licences were in force in respect of 3 caravans, under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

On two private sites, members of the Showman's Guild stationed their caravans during the permitted winter months, and I am pleased to record the high standards observed by these persons.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

This Act came into force during the year, and the Council appointed both Public Health Inspectors as authorised officers under it. Explanatory letters and forms of application for registration were sent to over 200 occupiers of premises in the urban district. By December 31st some 173 of these had been registered, and a further number found to be not covered by the operation of the Act. The first survey of registered premises had commenced by the end of the year, 34 visits and inspections having then been made.

### SHOPS ACTS.

Little or no work was done under the normal or delegated powers of the Shops Act 1950, as the relevant sections of the Act were repealed on the coming into operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

The Essex County Council continued to operate the unrepealed provisions of the Act as the authority for Shops (Hours of Closing), Employment of Young Persons, etc.



INSECT PESTS

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	16
Moles	...	...	...	...	...	1

Cluster flies and house flies again gave rise to complaints at Rivenhall, and in other parts of the district. These were dealt with by the occupiers following advice on methods of eradication, attention also being paid to the keeping of animals and poultry in the areas concerned.

RODENT CONTROL

From 1st April 1964 the Witham Council became a full member of the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee. The Committee's operatives were already undertaking all disinfection work in the urban district, by arrangement, and had been responsible for the agricultural part of the work ever since the Joint Committee was formed following the withdrawal of the Ministry of Agriculture's direct labour contract service.

The number of contracts with owners of Agricultural holdings for 1964 was 13. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Inspections made	123	13
Treatment visits	227	227
Infestations found: Mice	16	-
Rats (Major)	7	-
(Minor)	97	13
Bodies recovered	781	
Estimated killed	1212	

No further disinfection work was carried out with fluoracetamide poisons during 1964, but this poison has been used for sewer baiting.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses:

There were no licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District at 31st December 1964.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local Council is the registering authority for milk distributors and premises (not being dairy farms) used as dairies.

Licensing of premises from which milk is produced, processed, bottled or sold is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at 31st December 1964:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Dairies (3)	3	3	2
Dealers (5)	5	5	3

Samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-59. The number of registrations at 31st December 1964 was:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors only	45
Registered premises	45

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Ice-Cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 17 such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's Description	Fruit Ices	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading				Total
		I	II	III	IV	
Satisfactory	-	9	-	-	-	9
Passable	-	-	5	-	-	5
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	2	-	3
Totals	-	9	5	2	1	17

Unsatisfactory reports are referred to the authority of the district of origin, and to the makers. In certain cases, improved hygiene on the part of local retailers has been required.

#### PROSECUTIONS.

Following adverse sample reports in respect of ice cream retailed by firm of itinerant vendors, inspections were made of the firm's vehicles and in number of instances contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 were found. After due warning had produced no improvement, the Council took proceedings against the firm and two of its vehicle drivers for a number of infringements of the Regulations in respect of three vehicles on different days.

After a lengthy hearing, the Magistrates found all the defendants guilty and imposed penalties as under:-

The firm: 5 offences. Fined £25. for each offence, plus £26.5.0. costs.

1st Salesman: 3 offences. Fined total of £20.0.0d., plus 4/- costs.

2nd Salesman: Guilty, but conditionally discharged; 4/- costs.

The case was of some interest, as the firm concerned was one of a group of allied companies operating on a national scale, and whose salesmen were not employed in the normal sense of the word. Whilst they were provided with the firm's vans, they were required to purchase from the firm the raw materials from which the ice cream was to be made, and also to pay for refrigerant and fuel used. In addition, the salesmen were responsible for paying their own national health contribution stamps, and for meeting their own income tax liabilities. In court, the firm's lawyers pleaded that the men were self-employed, hiring the vans from the Company and responsible themselves for ensuring compliance with the Regulations. The Court refused this argument but held that the salesmen in these circumstances shared to some extent the responsibility of the operating company, and imposed penalties accordingly.

Other Food Samples: (for bacteriological examination)

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Cooked Meats	18	4
Cress	-	6
Dessicated Coconut	2	-
Imitation Cream	3	-
Custard Tart	1	-
Egg Loaf	1	-
Dried Egg	1	-
Milk	6	2
Ice-Cream Scoop Rinse Water	3	-

OTHER FOOD HYGIENE MATTERS.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, was as follows:-

Residential Hotels	4
Restaurants	7
Factory and School Canteens	12
Manufacturing Butchers	3
Bakehouses	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
Retail Butchers' Shops	7
Other Retail Food Shops	55
Retail Wet Fish Shops	2
Licensed Premises and Clubs	20
Fruit Packers	1
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Stations	1

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 105 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory; minor exceptions are at those premises which frequently change hands.

The table below shows defects and other conditions which received attention during the year:-

Design and layout of new shops	2
Structural defects	7
Defective/inadequate sink drainage, hot water and washing facilities, or sanitary accommodation.	11



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken by the Urban District Inspectors under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. The sampling officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1964.

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District.	Taken outside Urban District on premises of Wholesalers who supply shops within Witham Urban District
Butter	2	2
Coffee essence	1	1
Plain Flour	1	
Self Raising Flour	1	
Table Jellies	1	2
Salad Cream	1	
Soft Drinks	1	1
Preserve	2	
Marmalade	2	
Cream Soups	1	
Sausages	1	4
Beverages	2	
Bread	1	
Cereal Products	2	
Condiments	1	
Cornflour	1	
Dried Fruit & Glace Cherries	7	3
Fruit Juices	1	
Lard and oil	2	1
Marzipan	1	
Soups	2	
Sugar	4	
Tinned Meats	1	
Margarine		1
Buttered Sweets		7
Cooked meats		4
Sugar & Flour Confectionery		1
Herbs		1
	129	28

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1964.

No. of samples taken: 90 (including 2 school milk).

All samples were found to be satisfactory,



Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 1 ton 2 qrs. 24 lbs. of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1964.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The daily recording of atmospheric smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations at Witham were continued throughout the year, producing a pattern now known to be typical of the district conditions, namely low concentrations during the winter and very low ones during the summer months. As in other areas, the tendency is for smoke concentration to decrease with the growing use of gas, electricity and smokeless fuels and central heating appliances, though the sulphur dioxide remains static or lessens much more slowly.

Industrial and commercial boiler installations are inspected under the Clean Air Act, and where appropriate the memorandum of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is applied to chimney heights on submission of plans. The Council has not seen fit to declare any smoke control areas under the Act, nor to adopt the building byelaw requiring smokeless heating appliances.

One long standing atmospheric pollution problem - that of a factory discharging finely divided dust from its processing plant - was in course of being remedied at the end of 1964, the Company concerned being then engaged in the installation of a comprehensive filtration plant.

STAFF.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1964 were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.  
Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.  
Technical Assistant.  
Secretary  
Junior Clerical Assistant  
Part-time General Assistant.

Cleansing: 2 Chargehands  
2 Driver/Loaders  
4 Refuse Loaders

Sewage Disposal: 1 Works Manager  
2 Chargehands  
4 Sewage Disposal Labourers  
1 Digger/Loader Driver  
1 Cesspool/Gulley Emptyier Driver.

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 49 years.

